

# Jordan Times

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الجordan تايمز جريدة سياسية عربية مستقلة

## 25,000 more Sudanese flee into Uganda

NAIROBI (R) — About 25,000 more southern Sudanese refugees have fled into Uganda to escape fresh fighting between government forces and rebels, a United Nations official said Monday. Ahmad Sayed Farah, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Uganda, said the latest influx brought to 63,000 the number of Sudanese who have crossed into the country this month. "About 25,000 have crossed since Friday," Mr. Farah said. "I am afraid an estimated 60,000 more refugees may cross into Uganda." Mr. Farah said a further 4,800 Sudanese were reported to have crossed into Zaire. "It appears there is total confusion with villagers fleeing in different directions," Mr. Farah added. The Khartoum government launched an offensive against Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels in the area was launched early this month. Churchmen and aid workers say the drive threatens to cut relief supply routes to huge areas affected by famine. SPLA officials told Reuters on Monday fierce fighting was raging at Morobo, a village 15 kilometres north of the border town of Kaya.

**Clinton committed to role in Somalia**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD (R) — The White House Monday expressed concern over the injury suffered by six American soldiers in Somalia but said President Bill Clinton remained committed to a role in the U.N. mission there. "We're obviously concerned about it," said White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers. "But it does not change our commitment to the mission there." The soldiers were preparing to leave Somalia Sunday when their truck was destroyed by an explosion in Mogadishu believed to have been set off by members of a militia of Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed.

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### King visits Oman

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein will Tuesday pay a brief visit to Oman for talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'ad, an official announcement made on Jordan Television said Monday.

### Hariri in Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, seeking aid to rebuild battered South Lebanon, arrived Monday for talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'ad. Arab countries, including Oman, promised \$500 million in assistance following last month's Israeli blitz against guerrillas in South Lebanon. The Arab states of the Gulf region are expected to contribute the most. Mr. Hariri, accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, was in Bahrain on Sunday and then in Qatar before coming to Oman.

### Babangida to quit, his aide say

"AGOS (R) — Nigeria's military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida will step down on Wednesday, a senior aide said on Monday. "I can assure you that he is leaving on Wednesday," the aide, who asked not to be named, told Reuters (see earlier story on page 8).

### Libyan minister delays Turkey trip

ANKARA (R) — Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Al Montasser postponed a visit to Turkey, due to have begun on Monday, at the last minute, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said. The ministry did not give a reason but the Turkish treasury said that talks on Turkish-Libyan trade ties, soured by huge debts owed by Libya to Turkish contractors, were going ahead. A Libyan delegation was due in Ankara on Wednesday for a three-day joint economic commission meeting. Mr. Montasser had been due to meet President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

### Mars probe 'missing'

PASADENA (AP) — Space engineers say the "missing" Mars observer spacecraft probably was hit by a temporary computer glitch and is not lost in space forever. They repeatedly radioed commands in an attempt to get a response from the spacecraft, a high-tech robot designed to give scientists their most detailed global look at Mars. Even without a reply, Mars observer has automatic computer programming to make it fire its thrusters and start orbiting the red planet on Tuesday. It then would try to contact Earth on Wednesday. said Glenn Cunningham, manager of the \$390 million project run by Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Engineers lost touch with Mars observer about 9 p.m. Saturday (0100 GMT Sunday).

### Turkish Cypriot premier sets election date

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu said Monday parliamentary elections would take place in the breakaway north of Cyprus on Nov. 28. The Tak news agency said Mr. Eroglu disclosed the early election date to visiting Turkish journalists in the port of Kyrenia. No other details were immediately available.

### Pakistan bans street meetings

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's election commission has promulgated a code of conduct for the runup to the October elections, banning public meetings on streets and main roads and barring provocative sectarian speeches. A commission statement published Monday said no leader or candidate during the campaign shall call the leader or candidate of another party kafir (non-believer) or a traitor. "The code, devised after consultations with leaders of the main parties, does not lay down any special penalties for violators, which will be dealt with under the existing rules, officials said. The elections are being held under a neutral government formed after the resignation of former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on July 18 under an army brokered settlement of the bitter political rivalry between them.

## King: No reversal of decision to cut ties with occupied lands

**'Question marks' over PLO's Gaza-Jericho proposal**  
**Assassination plot 'not surprising' because of frequent attacks**

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday ruled out any reversal of Jordan's 1988 decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the Israeli-occupied territories noting that the severance of relations came upon the request of the Palestinians.

"Our decision stands. There is no going back on it, and there is no point of discussing this question in any form," the King said in an interview with Agence France Presse (AFP).

"The Palestinian brothers had sought to shoulder their own responsibilities concerning their own cause with our full backing. As long as this is what they chose on Wednesday," the aide, who asked not to be named, told Reuters (see earlier story on page 8).

King Hussein said he was surprised by a proposal from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat for a partial Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and called for urgent talks with the PLO.

In his interview with AFP, the

King said there had been "no coordination at all between Jordan and the Palestinians on the question of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho."

Mr. Arafat Saturday called on Israel to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank at the start of an interim period of Palestinian self-rule.

But the King said he had not examined the possibility of a partial Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

The absence of coordination between the two sides raised "question marks" over the consequences of such a pullout, he said.

"We are awaiting an opportunity to look at this question and that of general coordination with the Palestinians as soon as possible in order to avoid any negative repercussions," the Monarch said, without elaborating.

Mr. Arafat arrived here unexpectedly later Monday (see separate story).

"There is an occupied land with its people, and we hope that

the occupation will end soon so that their sufferings will end and they would be in a position to make their own choice."

In 1972, he said, "we put forward three proposals: Return to unity that existed before 1967; a union between Palestine and Jordan; or an independent Palestinian state."

"I remember that the PLO recognised U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 after Jordan's 1988 decision to sever relations," the King said.

However, he added, Jordan offered the idea of an umbrella to the Palestinians to peace talks with Israel in order to overcome obstacles in the way of holding the peace talks.

"Jordan will continue to provide all forms of assistance and backing to the Palestinians until they regain their homeland," he said.

King Hussein said he had "proof" that army cadets were involved in an Islamic fund.

(Continued on page 10)



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is received upon his arrival here Monday by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials (Petra photo)

## Arafat arrives, says Jericho no substitute for Jerusalem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived Monday to assess with His Majesty King Hussein the Middle East peace process before the 11th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations next week.

In arrival comments, Mr. Arafat said that the Palestinians will not cede Jerusalem as their capital and that "Jerusalem is not solely a Palestinian issue but is of concern to all Arabs, Muslims and Christians."

The Palestinian president said that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank town of Jericho was one of the options to be discussed in the next round of Arab-Israeli talks.

The talks are also expected to focus on Palestinian-Jordanian committees set up during a visit by Mr. Arafat in July to lay the groundwork for confederation between Jordan and any future independent Palestinian state.

Two of them, an economic committee headed on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive

Committee member Suleiman Najjar and a border and security committee headed by Executive Committee member Yaser Amr, are scheduled to hold their first meetings on Tuesday (see pages 3 and 10).

Mr. Arafat was asked whether reports that he was ready to accept such a limited Israeli withdrawal at this stage were true and whether it meant that he was ready to accept Jericho as a "temporary capital" for a Palestinian government headed by him.

He said that the Palestinians insisted on Jerusalem as their capital and that Jericho cannot be a substitute for the Holy City.

Mr. Arafat, who will attend the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees opening here today, was received upon arrival by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Al Anani and other officials.

King Hussein was expected to meet the PLO chairman later Monday.

Mr. Arafat expressed hope that the 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks will be fruitful. "Let's wait and see," he said.

He stressed that the PLO Executive Committee was unified in supporting Palestinian political moves. A recent meeting held in Tunis and attended by the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks confirmed the PLO's unity, he said.

He said that Mahmoud Darwish, a member of PLO Executive Committee, did not resign but suspended his political activities to dedicate more time to writing.

A PLO spokesman told the Palestinian news agency WAFA that resignations had to be submitted to the Palestine National Council, which elects the executive. The last session of the PNC was in 1991.

"The wish of brother Mahmoud Darwish to devote his time to his creative work, which we are proud of, is an old and legitimate wish, but his resignation has not yet been examined," a PLO statement said in Tunis.

King Hussein was expected to meet the PLO chairman later Monday.

Mr. Darwish, a noted poet, said on Friday he had resigned from the Executive Committee to give all his time to his intellectual work.

(Continued on page 10)

## Israel to maintain blockade of Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel has approved continued funding of jobs for a limited number of Palestinians living in the occupied territories, signalling continuation of a controversial exclusion policy.

Gad Ben-Ari, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said a budget of 45 million shekels (\$16 million) would fund "initiated work" for 15,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This would keep the "make-work" project going until the end of October.

The decision is to continue the same project created in May," Mr. Ben-Ari said. At that time the government allocated \$11 million to fund jobs for Palestinians in the areas where they live during the months of June and August.

Israel sealed off the Palestinian areas of the occupied territories in March after a rash of fatal attacks on Israelis by Arabs. The move cut off 100,000 Arabs from mostly menial jobs in Israel.

The closure was condemned by Palestinians for barring them from East Jerusalem, although it has been allowing about 50,000 workers to enter on limited permits to work in agriculture and building sites.

Meanwhile Palestinian sources said that relatives of Sami Namar Zaurab, 33, who was found dead in his cell in the Gaza prison on Saturday, wanted a Danish coroner to conduct an independent autopsy on his body.

Military sources said Mr. Zaurab, who had been in military custody on arms charges since May 4, died of pneumonia, but Palestinian officials said he died as a result of army brutality while in custody.

The Palestinian-Israeli Organization for Human Rights has asked the state prosecutor to investigate whether the prisoner had been placed in an icy cell during interrogation and to explain why he was not admitted to hospital.

Another group, the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre, said more than 30 Palestinians have died in prison since the start of the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories in December 1987.

An Israeli opposition party accused the government Monday of ripping down protest banners across the country because they opposed any return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

"They are taking down hundreds of signs to advance their political views," said Gonen Segev, a parliament member from the far-right Tsomet party.

With the United States and

tions were in the offing, adding that "a growing number of Executive Committee members were very concerned about the PLO's political concessions."

He said the PLO's institutions faced collapse due to the financial crisis facing the leadership.

Mr. Mallah said he would attend, even though the PFLP-Executive Committee meetings since November 1991 to protest against the conditions under which the Palestinians committed themselves to the Middle East peace process.

Another Executive Committee member, Tayseer Khaled of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, blamed the current crisis on corruption in the leadership's upper ranks.

"The financial blunder

(Continued on page 3)

"Confidence crisis," page 10.

## Executive Committee to meet on PLO crisis

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will meet Thursday in Tunis to discuss a financial and political crisis crippling the organisation, a committee member said Monday.

The PLO's leadership called for the meeting to examine the organisation's internal and financial situation, Abdul Rahim Mallah, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's (PFLP) political bureau, told AFP in Amman.

A prominent member of the 18-strong committee, poet Mahmoud Darwish, announced his resignation on Thursday and Shafiq Al Hout, the PLO's representative in Lebanon, said Sunday he was suspending his participation in the decision-making body.

Mr. Mallah said other resignations

## Sheikh Jaber in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah arrived Monday for talks with President Hafez Al Assad on the Middle East peace talks and regional security.

In Beirut, police defused a bomb at the entrance to a building housing offices of two Kuwaiti companies, a day before the emir's scheduled arrival in the Lebanese capital.

Sheikh Jaber arrived in Damascus from Cairo where he held similar discussions with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. A new round of Middle East peace talks begins Aug. 31 in Washington.

The emir and Mr. Assad also were expected to discuss the Damascus declaration, signed by eight Arab states in 1991.

The plan involved stationing tens of thousands of troops from resource-poor but manpower-rich Syria and Egypt in the oil-rich but lightly populated Gulf, to help prevent a repetition of such events as the invasion of Kuwait.

It soon founders and the Gulf states went their own way.

Syria and Egypt had sent troops to the Gulf region to join the U.S.-led coalition force that drove Iraq's army out of Kuwait.

In Beirut, a police spokesman, who could not be named in line with regulations, said the bomb, attached to a timer, was defused at 2:58 p.m. (1158 GMT) two minutes before its set-off time.

He said the bomb was planted at the entrance to an eight-storey building housing offices of Kuwait Airways and Bank of Lebanon and Kuwait in Beirut's Hamra commercial thoroughfare.

The airline is owned by the Kuwaiti government and most of the bank's shares are owned by Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah.

## Iraq: U.N. talks should aim at lifting sanctions

AMMAN (Agencies) — Iraq insisted Monday that technical talks with the United Nations at the end of this month should also discuss Baghdad's demand that world trade sanctions be lifted.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement, read to the Associated Press in Amman by telephone, confirmed that Baghdad would participate in the Aug. 31 talks.

Those talks are aimed at resolving an impasse over the deployment of monitoring cameras at Iraqi missile sites. The cameras have been installed, but are not yet switched on, pending the outcome of the New York talks.

The ministry statement said Iraq wants the talks to include the placement of cameras at the missile sites. But they will not be activated unless the talks in New York resolve various issues on long-term monitoring.

"On the basis of the agreement (Continued on page 3)

## Petitioners try desperately to keep Demjanjuk in Israel

Change of law, repeated appeals in court, and 'prima facie evidence' among tools

By Ruth Ebenstein  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Opponents of John Demjanjuk's release will do anything they can to prevent him from leaving Israel, they said Sunday — even if it means changing the law to get him retried.

"I'm already speaking with members of parliament from the left and the right," Avi Beker, a spokesman for the World Jewish Congress, told The Associated Press.

Israel's supreme court last month overturned a 1988

death sentence against the 73-year old Ukrainian-born

Ohio auto worker for being

Ivan the terrible, a Nazi camp

guard who killed over

800,000 people at the Treblinka camp.

But it said there was con-

vincing evidence he belonged to a Nazi guard unit that helped kill people and served in the Sobibor camp.

In all, eight high court jus-

tices and the attorney general

have decided against a new

trial, citing the danger of

double jeopardy and saying

legal proceedings against Mr.

Demjanjuk have already

dragged on too long.

The attorney general also

noted that the original 1986

U.S. extradition order was

only to allow Mr. Demjanjuk

to stand trial for the charges

relating to Treblinka.

Nine petitioners disagreed,

and last week were granted

until Sept. 2 to find new

reasons to keep Mr. Demjanjuk

in Israel to face trial for

charges related to Sobibor

and elsewhere.

Mr. Beker said he hoped

the process would buy

enough time to change the

law so Mr. Demjanjuk would

be tried.

"We want the parliament

to initiate a motion saying the

law dealing with Nazi crimi-

nals should be more flexible

... in matters of extradition

and double jeopardy," he



John Demjanjuk

Efraim Zuroff, a spokesman for another U.S.-based petitioner, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles, agreed that Israel needed pushing from the appellants to bring Mr. Demjanjuk to justice.

"The sad story is that instead of Israel doing the work itself, private organisations are forced to," Mr. Zuroff said in an interview.

"The trouble with Israel is we try to be holier than the Pope," Mr. Avraham Cassier, an attorney representing eight survivors of Sobibor living in Israel, told the Associated Press. "France would have hung him, the Ukraine would have killed him, Germany would have locked him away forever."

He admitted that all the research was not in, but "we know that someone in those places in his position was involved in implementing the final solution," Mr. Zuroff said, using a Nazi euphemism.

Yoram Sheftel, Mr. Demjanjuk's lawyer, has said the petitioners are exploiting Israel's legal system to deny Mr. Demjanjuk his rights — and has noted that the new charges have come late in the game, seven years after his original trial.

He admitted that all the research was not in, but "we know that someone in those places in his position was involved in implementing the final solution," Mr. Zuroff said, using a Nazi euphemism.

Mr. Cassier said his tactics would be to file and refuse for appeal until Mr. Demjanjuk gets retried. He hopes to get a sitting of 11 judges — the historic maximum for the court — to hear the appeal.

This would mean that the eight justices who have already said Mr. Demjanjuk should not be retried would have to step down temporarily, to be replaced by district court judges.

A statement from the Justice Ministry said that an appeal to an 11-judge court was theoretically possible.

Irwin Cotler, an expert on international law working with the World Jewish Congress, rejected repeated appeals, saying that if the supreme court rejected next month's appeal, that would be the end of it.

He preferred to focus on Israel's obligations under international law as an appeal tactic.

"The international law principle is overriding whenever a person is found in any jurisdiction against whom there is prima facie evidence of crimes against humanity," Mr. Cotler said.

He said Israeli law was problematic in making an appeal stick, because the supreme court would be in the unusual position of overriding the attorney general if it ordered a new trial.

"The criterion is that the supreme court will intervene only if the attorney general was unreasonable in the extreme," he said. "That criterion in itself is unreasonable and inappropriate."

Mr. Zuroff said the Wiesenthal centre would address double jeopardy by introducing evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk was at other camps not mentioned in the original trial.

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LEBANON MISSION: Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani (left) Sunday with Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid. The Arab League chief is accompanying Lebanese Premier Rafik Hariri on a visit to the Gulf states to raise funds for Lebanon (AFP photo)

## Berne: No negotiations with PKK over hostages

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has said it would not negotiate directly with Kurdish guerrillas who have kidnapped three of its nationals in south-eastern Turkey.

"We will not negotiate directly with the PKK. The Turkish authorities are responsible for security in Turkey," Foreign Ministry spokesman Franz Egli said.

The Brussels-based Kurdish committee said on Saturday the armed wing of the PKK (Kurdistan Labour Party), which is fighting for a separate Kurdish state, had seized four foreign tourists in its latest strike against Turkey's lucrative tourism industry.

Switzerland said later that there were "indications that the PKK were behind the kidnappings" and said it had set up a group of experts whose aim was to secure the speediest possible release of those kidnapped.

The ministry added there were "indications that the PKK were behind the kidnappings" and said it had set up a group of experts whose aim was to secure the speediest possible release of those kidnapped.

The first task is to find out where the hostages are, and what is their state of health," the statement said.

Spokesman Egli said he could not confirm reports that the hostages were Jehovah's Witnesses, who were in the region to seek the remains of Noah's Ark.

Mount Agri (Ararat), which lies just inside modern Turkey, is a popular site for Biblical researchers looking for the ark.

Jehovah's Witnesses are a Christian fundamentalist sect which rejects all other religions and denominations, believes in the imminent end of the world and refuses to accept civil authority where it clashes with its own principles.

## Former first lady of Israel dies

TEL AVIV (AP) — Ofira Navon, the former Israeli first lady who brought a high profile to the job by lobbying for the rights of the disadvantaged, died Sunday.

Mrs. Navon, wife to fifth Israeli President Yitzhak Navon, died from leukemia at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in occupied Jerusalem, Israel Radio said.

When her husband was inaugurated into the largely ceremonial post in 1978, Mrs. Navon raised the profile of a job that most of her predecessors were happy to keep low-key.

"It's a very hard job," she told Israel army radio in May after the latest president, Ezer Weizman, was sworn in. "But there is the satisfaction of the fact that you are at the centre of power, that you can use your ties, your ability to influence."

Mrs. Navon, a developmental psychologist, lobbied for the rights of the disabled and for children's rights.

In 1979, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and rejected a mastectomy, opting for chemotherapy and a lumpectomy. Later, she argued for the right of the patients to determine treatment.

Yitzhak Navon served as president until 1983. The couple represented Israel during its first peace treaty with an Arab state, the Camp David accords with Egypt, and during its most controversial war, in Lebanon.

By the time she was 19, Ofira Erez had been named "Sabari" (native-born Israeli girl) of the year, and had represented Israel in a beauty contest sponsored by the French magazine, Elle. She married Mr. Navon in 1963.

She was the first Israeli-born first lady, and the couple was the first presidential "mixed marriage" — he was a Sephardic, or Middle Eastern Jew, she was born to Ashkenazi, or Eastern European, parents.

That mix, and the fact that they were the first to bring small children to the first family, made them symbols of the new Israel.

There were other contrasts. He was the pugnacious establishment politician; she was an outspoken career woman; he was the scion of a family that had lived in Jerusalem for years; she was a child of the new city of Tel Aviv.

After his presidency, Mr. Navon served as education minister from 1984-1991. Mrs. Navon, stung by press criticism of her outspokenness, receded from the public eye but remained a volunteer for her favorite causes.

Mrs. Navon, survived by her husband, her daughter Naama, 20, and her son, Erez, 19, was to be buried Monday, Israel Radio said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nighttime bomb in Tehran injures four

NICOSIA (AP) — A bomb exploded before dawn Monday in the Iranian capital of Tehran, injuring four people, damaging cars and shattering windows, the national news agency IRNA said. The brief dispatch, monitored in Nicosia, said the bomb was planted in a car in the southern part of the city. The report gave few details, but did not say how serious the injuries were or who may have been responsible for the attack. However, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, an Iranian opposition group based in Iraq, has claimed numerous attacks inside Iran this year. Also, tensions between Iran and Iraq, combatants in a brutal war from 1980-88, have been running high in recent months.

### Somalis end protest at conditions in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Hundreds of Somali refugees staging a protest at the U.N. offices in Cairo to demand more aid agreed to end their action on Sunday after Egyptian diplomats intervened. About 400 Somalis occupied the gardens of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Cairo. Some were there for five days and were on hunger strike. The Somalis agreed to stop their protest when an Egyptian diplomat, a UNHCR officer, and a Somali representative agreed they would visit the charity Caritas which is due to give them money. Their leader Basha Ahmad Abdi told Reuters the UNHCR had decided to give each family 350 Egyptian pounds (\$100) per month and each single person 100 Egyptian pounds (\$30). Both figures were much lower than those given to Somali refugees in other countries, Mr. Abdi said. But UNHCR officer Bahaia Panday said no sum had been fixed and each case would be treated on its individual merits. About 7,000 Somalis in Egypt receive refugee help.

### 2 held for smuggling drug into Israeli jail

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two men found out heroin does not go better with coke when they were charged Sunday with smuggling the white powder into jail in a soft drink bottle, Israel Radio reported. An alert policeman heard Avraham Maman and Yisrael Cohen shout out, "It's okay, it's in the coke," as they ended a visit with friends in the lockup in Rishon LeZion, a Tel Aviv suburb, the radio said. The policeman checked out the bottle, the report said, found 26 grammes of heroin, and marched the two back into the lockup for a taste of the real thing. The Petach Tikva magistrate's court detained the two on charges of drug possession Sunday, the radio said.

### Israeli police catch four escapees

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police nabbed three of four prisoners Sunday who had escaped the Tel Aviv district prison the night before, Israel Radio reported. The four had escaped when the ringleader, a former police informer, held up a guard at gunpoint and released the other three Saturday night. The escapees were caught in Jaffa, south of Tel Aviv, when a police blockade stopped them after they had careened around Tel Aviv in a stolen car, the radio said. All four attempted to escape on foot, but only one, Kaddaf Baiti from Jaffa, got away. Police recovered the .22 caliber pistol the ringleader had used to help his friends escape when they caught the three, the radio said. They were investigating how he obtained the gun. All four — two Arab Israelis from Jaffa and two Palestinians from East Jerusalem — were in prison on criminal charges. Mr. Baiti, 18, was in jail for car theft.

### 8 killed in Iran coal mine blast

NICOSIA (R) — Eight coalminers were killed and about a dozen were missing after an explosion at a state-owned mine in southeast Iran, an Iranian official said Monday. An official of the Mines and Metals Ministry said rescue teams had recovered eight bodies after part of Babizan mine near the town of Zarand, 720 kilometres southeast of Tehran, collapsed when a pocket of methane gas exploded on Thursday. They were searching for about a dozen others they hoped would still be alive in the tunnels at the "relatively large" mine, he told Reuters by telephone from Tehran. Tehran's Salam newspaper said 18 miners injured in the blast were being treated in hospitals at the nearby provincial capital of Kerman. The official said the ministry had sent a team of experts to investigate the cause of the blast at the mine, run by state-owned Kerman Coal Company.

### Russian pilot commits suicide in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A Russian airline pilot has committed suicide by jumping out his hotel window in northwestern Iran, an Iranian newspaper reported Monday. The Farsi-language Salam said the 30-year-old pilot, identified as Anatoly Kopolin, killed himself Thursday by jumping out of his room, at the Jasm Hotel in Mashhad, capital of Iran's northeastern Khorasan province. The report, received in Nicosia, said the motive was not known. It did not say for which airline Kopolin worked. Kopolin's body was flown to Russia, it added. Several airlines from the Commonwealth of Independent States have scheduled flights to Mashhad.

### Kuwait says Indian labour row solved

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwait Foreign Ministry official said on Monday a row involving 130 Indian workers and a private manpower firm over contract terms had been solved. Jassem Al-Sabagh, director of the ministry's Asia and Africa's Department, said the workers, who complained they had been paid about half what was paid in full. He said the Ministry of Social Affairs and Loaders of vegetable market trucks for Al Nibras Stevedoring and Cleaning Company. "Kuwait will keep respecting the rights of workers as it always did," Mr. Sabagh told Reuters by telephone. An Indian embassy official told the manpower company would start repatriating the workers in groups later this week. Diplomats said the workers had taken refuge at the Indian embassy last week, fearing violence after some alleged they were assaulted by Kuwaiti police during a labour dispute. The workers also said the company had not honoured an undertaking to pay for end-of-contract flights home.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 *Onnisciences*  
18:39 *Comedy Series*  
18:55 *News in French*  
19:30 *News in Hebrew*  
20:00 *News in Arabic*  
20:30 *People Next Door*  
21:00 *Faces and Places*  
21:30 *A Kind of Magic*  
22:00 *News in English*  
22:20 *Feature Film: White Head*

### PRAYER TIMES

04:38 *Fajr*  
06:01 *(Sunrise) Dhuhr*  
12:38 *Asr*  
16:16 *Maghreb*  
19:27 *Isha*

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifieh, Tel. 81740. Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. De Salle Church Tel. 616757. Terrananta Church Tel. 623346.



Senior officers of the Royal War College Monday attend a lecture delivered by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali

## Premier reviews government stands in lecture at Royal War College

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday delivered a lecture at the Royal War College in which he reaffirmed Jordan's stands with regard to the Middle East peace process, noting that Jordan was providing an umbrella for the Palestinians in the peace negotiations.

Stating that the coming elections will be free and fair, the prime minister pledged government action to ensure that the parliamentary elections are held in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy.

With reference to its economic policy, Dr. Majali said that the

government was seeking to encourage the private sector to assume its full role in contributing to the Jordanian economy and was encouraging investments by Jordanians and external concerns.

He said the government plans to set up an institution to cater to the needs of the Jordanian workforce.

Referring to public administration, Dr. Majali said the government was working towards decentralisation in management and has already given provincial governors partial ministerial authority and power to speed up govern-

ment work in their respective areas.

On relations with other Arab countries, the prime minister said Jordan has always sought to improve ties with the other Arab countries.

Noting that Jordan was extending a friendly hand and an open heart to the Arab Nation, the prime minister said that the Kingdom seeks to unify the Arab stand vis-à-vis the new world order so that nothing can be imposed on the Arabs against their will.

Attending Monday's lecture were senior army officers.

## Ministerial visit to Tafileh focuses on governorate's needs

TAFILEH (Petra) — The government is proceeding with plans to decentralise, and programmes have been designed for each governorate in this respect, said Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz.

Speaking during a visit to Tafileh with the Ministers of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Public Works and Housing and Social Development, Dr. Fariz cited as an example plans for every governorate's fiscal budget for 1994 in a manner that would ensure justice and provide budget for 1994 in a manner that would ensure justice and provide appropriate services to citizens.

The ministers' visit to the southern governorate Monday, said Dr. Fariz, aims at paving the way for a study of its problems. "The ministers are here for a close hand study of the govern-

orate's problems so that these will be considered in the fiscal budget for 1991," said Dr. Fariz.

The planning minister urged the private sector to participate in the efforts towards developing the governorate through investment projects that can raise the living standards of local residents.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan said at the meeting, which was attended by heads of local councils and notable citizens, that all requests related to city planning and the distribution of land will be taken into account and discussed by the provincial governors together with the heads of local councils.

Minister of Public Works Khalid Hawari said that the ministry was going ahead with plans to meet citizens' requests for agri-

cultural roads. He said that sufficient allocations will be made in the 1994 budget for these projects.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqaour told the meeting that the ministry was cooperating with the local councils to improve social services. He said local citizens would be encouraged to carry out small-scale income-generating projects and to help increase their incomes.

Tafileh Governor Ahmad Lawzi reviewed the governorate's needs for roads and maintenance of tourism attractions like the Afra baths. He also said the town councils were in need of engineers and technicians, and certain areas still lack industrial zones.

The ministers visited several projects in the region as well as the Dana Wildlife Reserve.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### King congratulates Ukraine

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. The King wished Mr. Kravchuk continued health and happiness and the people of Ukraine further progress and prosperity.

### Minister, Turkish envoy review religious affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Religious Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi received in his office Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Ali Iremcik. Mr. Abbadi and Mr. Iremcik discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Turkish cooperation in religious affairs.

### Labour delegation heads for Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaled Al Ghzawi left Amman Monday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to Indonesia. In a four-day meeting there, the minister will hold talks with the Indonesian minister of labour and industry on labour-related fields. Issues ranging from control of the labour market and vocational training, to occupational safety procedures will be reviewed in the talks. Mr. Ghzawi is accompanied on the visit by Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Ahmad Arwan and the ministry of labour's advisor, Ayoub Batsch.

### Truck drivers demand special parking lot

AOABA (Petra) — Truck drivers operating between Aqaba and other cities have complained to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that there are no special lots assigned where they can park their vehicles during the discharge and load-up periods in Aqaba. They said that this situation forces them to park alongside the roads next to the container port. The drivers requested that the concerned authorities help them get a parking lot in order to avoid being fined by traffic police for violations of traffic rules.

### Firms to display goods at Damascus fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the Damascus International Fair due to open Saturday for two weeks. A spokesman for the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) said 76 Jordanian industrial firms will take part in the fair, displaying samples of their nationally manufactured products. It said Industry and Trade Minister Bassam Al Saket will arrive in Damascus Saturday to attend the opening of the fair.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank exhibition hall.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najar at Esheba Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.

### LECTURES

★ Lecture by Dr. Martha Joukowsky on "Excavations at the Southern Temple of Petra" at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) at 7:00 p.m.

★ Play entitled "Crescent Night" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Play entitled "Samira and the Princess" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

## Scholars to discuss Muslims and the minorities of Europe

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) has invited scholars from Europe and the Islamic World to hold a two-day Arab-European dialogue concerning "Muslims and the minorities of Europe" in Amman on Sept. 1 and 2.

The announcement, made by the ATF Monday, said the meeting will be the fifth session of Arab-European dialogue and will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is the ATF president.

It said that the participants,

will be holding their meeting at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman, will discuss the following topics: the current problems of immigration, causes of fundamentalism in Arab countries, the extremist right wing movements, Muslims in Europe and their future, and human rights in Arab-European relations.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation representing the Palestinian People's Party, the prime minister called for further coordination among the members of the Palestinian delegation, noting that united ranks can help them to regain their rights and bolster the Arab negotiators' stand.

The delegation leader, Bashir Barghouti, voiced his party's support for continued Jordanian-Palestinian coordination within the peace process framework and for defining the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship after the Palestinians have regained their right to self-determination.

The two sides reviewed the Israeli-Palestinian talks and other matters related to the progress of the peace negotiations, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said the two sides also discussed the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Al Anani and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations Ghassan Al Khanb, Suleiman Al Najjar and Taysseer Al Aroui were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources

were quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday as saying that the Palestinians have finalised the formation of such-committees which will be holding meetings with Jordanian such-committees under the umbrella of the Jordanian-Palestinian higher joint committee formed last month.

## Majali reiterates Jordan's support of Palestinian peace negotiators 5 Palestinian sub-committees formed for higher joint panel meetings soon



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday meets with a delegation of the Palestinian People's Party to review issues related to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Attending the meeting were Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Al Anani (left), delegation leader Bashir Barghouti (third from left) and Palestinian peace negotiators Ghassan Al Khanb, Suleiman Al Najjar and Taysseer Al Aroui (Petra photo)

jab.

According to the sources, the joint committees which had held initial meetings last month will resume their talks in Amman in the coming few days.

The committees have been entrusted with the task of discussing the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

## Cancer care nursing candidates meet minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of nurses, scheduled to start a post-graduate course at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. on caring for cancer patients, Monday met with Health Minister Abdul Rahim Al Malhas to review their new venture.

The youth, identified only as Munther S., was hanged Sunday at the Suwaqa prison, 100 kilometres south of Amman, said the official, who requested anonymity.

Munther's cousin agreed to pay him JD2,000 if he killed her husband, who refused to grant a divorce, the official said, citing court evidence.

The killing took place at Ajan, a town 20 kilometres north of Amman, in July 1992.

The unidentified woman was sentenced to 20 years with hard labour. Her daughter and another person were convicted as accomplices and received prison terms of 15 years and 12 years, the official added.

The group was selected by Al Aman Cancer Centre to pursue a master's degree in nursing cancer patients and work at the centre after it starts operation next year.

"The first stage — the construction of the centre — is over and we are now embarking on the second stage which is providing the expertise and the equipment for the cancer patients," said Dr. Al Malhas at the meeting.

The minister paid tribute to the national team which has been entrusted with setting up the cancer centre and the Jordanian citizens who, he said, generously contributed towards its construction and operation.

Abdullah Al Khatib, a member of the national team, told the nurses that it was the first time in the history of the Kingdom that a group is being sent abroad to specialise in nursing cancer patients.

"I believe that Jordan will become a regional centre for medical services, something which will, of course, reflect most positively

on the country's economy in addition to the medical field," said Dr. Khatib who is also head of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

GUVS was instrumental in organising a nation-wide campaign to raise funds for this vital project.

At last week's national team meeting, Dr. Khatib announced that so far JD7,500,835 have been collected for the project which has an estimated overall cost of JD13 million.

Addressing the meeting was Sawsan Majali who coordinated the study programme with Georgetown University officials.

The course of study is expected to last 16 months.

Dr. Majali, who holds a Ph. D. in nursing, told the group that 150 male and female nurses had applied for the course, but only 30 were accepted by the national committee.

Of these, 22 were accepted at Georgetown University and the first 17 will leave Tuesday, said Dr. Majali who is also member of the national team of the cancer centre.

She explained that the national team will finance the \$24,000 per student cost of tuition for the nurses.

The course of study is expected to last 16 months.

He noted that commodities related to health and medication, as well as those used in training Jordanians in various trades are

subject to very low rates.

He said customs duty constitutes the main source of public revenues in Jordan adding that it is imposed partly as a measure to protect national products against foreign competition and to encourage local industries.

In a drive to decentralise its various tasks Mr. Jamal said, the department has granted additional authorities to customs centres at the borders, especially in preventing smuggling.

## Committee to discuss PLO crisis

(Continued from page 1) from page 1) process, which is not progressing."

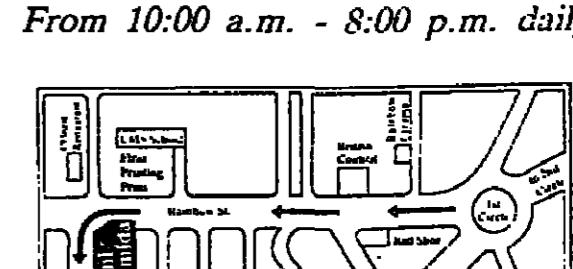
Also in Lebanon, a top PLO military official called Monday for Mr. Arafat to resign.

Dr. Ashrawi, warning the PLO's cash crisis could lead to Palestinian institutions in the Israeli-occupied territories and abroad going bankrupt, said the impasse in the peace talks was due to the Jerusalem question, which has created a rift in the organisation.

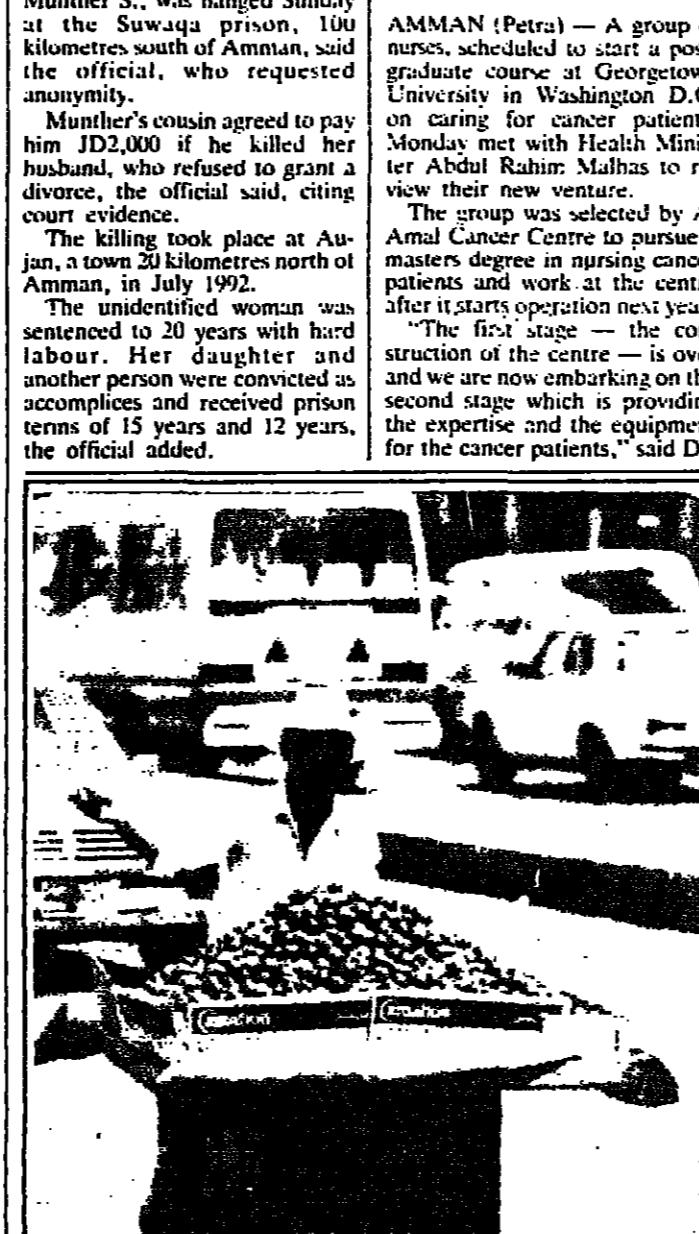
## END OF SUMMER SALE

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## Visiting labour panel opens local dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — An official representing the Asian-American Free Labour Institute (AAFLI) in the United States Monday opened a three-day dialogue on labour-related issues with the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU).

A JLU statement said the dialogue between John Sloane and the federation's executive bureau focuses on the Jordanian labour movement and its problems.

The two sides will also review national and pan-Arab issues directly related to labour unions, according to the statement. Such issues as labour disputes,

selection of union leaders, representation of unions in general meetings, workers' needs and rights are to be reviewed in the three-day meetings.

According to the statement the AAFLI is part of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO).

Established in 1986, the AAFLI now has offices in Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.

The statement said that the AAFLI regularly holds training seminars for labour union leaders.

Such issues as labour disputes,

oil sales. These talks were suspended on July 14.

But it said that according to the agreement with Mr. Ekeus "political and technical talks will follow the first stage to start in New York Aug. 31."

The source made no mention of talks allowing Baghdad partial oil sales. These talks were suspended on July 14.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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## Onus on other side

WILL THE upcoming 11th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington produce a breakthrough or at least achieve some solid progress towards peace? Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told the Jordan Television on Sunday that he was upbeat about the prospects of attaining real progress in the next session of talks planned for the end of this month. "I am very optimistic," the prime minister said. The reason for this optimism, in the words of Dr. Majali, is American assurances that the U.S. now wants "to see concrete progress before the end of this year." Expressing similar anticipation of tangible advancement in the peace talks is Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "We are really very near in time, in content, and I think it (peace agreement) will come earlier than most people think," Mr. Peres declared Sunday in Helsinki. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad expressed almost identical views a few days ago when he described Washington's current involvement in the peace discussions as more forthright and positive than at any previous time.

The Palestinian side has yet to share this assessment, basically because their track is the most formidable and thorny of all the existing bilateral peace talks. The fact that the Palestinian house is woefully divided has not helped matters much either. Shafiq Al Hout, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, declared Sunday the suspension of his membership for alleged irregularities in the organisation's hierarchy. This move came on the heels of the resignation of Mahmoud Darwish from the same committee apparently for the same reasons offered by Mr. Hout. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had barely recovered from the confrontation with the Palestinian team to the Israeli-Palestinian track when these developments took place, and he will also continue to be plagued by the serious financial constraints that the PLO budget is suffering from. All these complications on the Palestinian front are obviously making decision making difficult and cumbersome for the Palestinian side.

Still the key to progress or lack of it lies with Israel itself, not with Washington or the PLO or the other Arab parties. The sooner that the Rabin government reconciles itself with the inevitability of dealing directly with the PLO the sooner progress can be achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Israel has been inching closer to recognising the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people but is doing so painstakingly. Further movement in that direction would undoubtedly make things easier for the Palestinian side. Given the solemn commitment by Jordan, Syria and Lebanon against signing separate peace accords with Israel, the Israeli government thus holds the key to progress on these other Arab fronts by negotiating more effectively with the Palestinian party. This could not be done without accepting the PLO as a full partner in the peace process.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MEETINGS of His Majesty King Hussein and the prime minister with the representatives of the media in the past week reflected the importance which the country attaches to the press and the information services, said Al Dustour daily Monday. There is no doubt that the media industry has made major strides over the past few years, serving as a tool for monitoring or criticising policies, actions and behaviours of the public and private institutions, said the paper. Indeed, the efficient journalists and the developed media of Jordan represent an economic asset for the country and a source of pride for Jordanians, it added. For this reason, it said, it has become necessary for the government to set guidelines for the media with the purpose of benefiting from its role in the interest of the nation. The guidelines came frankly and openly from the government and the King, added the paper. The King's meeting with the press reflected the leader's determination to maintain a constructive dialogue with the journalists over all matters of concern to the nation, the paper continued. Both the King and the prime minister are underlining the fact that the media has assumed a major status and is playing a leading role not only in manufacturing and projecting the country's achievements on all fronts, but also in influencing the public opinion, added the paper.

THE CURRENT troubled spots around the world and the various regional conflicts we witness nowadays have resulted from the downfall of the old world order, when the Soviet Union collapsed, said Tareq Masa'weh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday. The writer said that the collapse of the Soviet Union allowed the United States to remain the sole superpower, capable of imposing its will on the world and causing these conflicts and wars. The writer said that the world could have achieved a new world order, despite the continued existence of the Soviet Union, through gradual disarmament and the dissolution of the NATO and Warsaw alliances. The world could have tasted peace and security under the umbrella of a new world order, had Moscow and Washington cooperated in resolving the conflicts in Afghanistan, Cambodia and the Middle East, the writer added. It should be added, said the writer, that the success of the United States in rallying the world against Iraq in the Gulf war has enhanced its position in the post cold war era. But, he noted, the success of the United States is allowed to continue as long as the Gulf countries continue to bankroll Washington's military adventures. The writer said that no power in the world is capable at present to halt the American arrogance and its greed for power and so, he said, the only means of dealing with the Americans is by diluting their power by involving them more and more in world conflicts so as to exhaust their means and pave the ground for the ordinary American citizens and tax payers to put an end to such adventures.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# New visions vs. desperate deeds of discredited old men

The peculiar public controversy over the changes in the electoral law that ushered in a one-person, one-vote system reveals a great deal about the state of Jordanian political culture, and, by extension, about the general political malaise in the Arab World. This highlights some of our deficiencies in the short run, for it affirms that the ways of the past are no longer valid; but in a longer term perspective, it signals an important willingness to build a better future, by coming to terms with our accumulated, structural political weaknesses.

The adoption of the one-person, one-vote system was a good and necessary change, but the manner in which the change was made was not in keeping with the proto-democratic Jordanian and Arab impulses of our time. The credibility of the prime minister and his government, in particular, was damaged because the prime minister had personally told the speaker of Parliament about a month ago that any changes in the law would take place only after a thorough national debate among all political tendencies in the country.

The prime minister's explanation after the fact that His Majesty the King and the government had consulted the different political forces in Jordan before approving the temporary law may be factually correct, but politically it remains open to discussion about its appropriateness. Was this the most suitable way to change the law, or should the government have engaged the public in a more open discussion of the pros and cons of the changes?

One of the cardinal attributes of democracy is that important national decisions are made in public, with all interested parties contributing to the debate. The government's decision to change the law without a public political debate in Parliament or through other systematic means will be seen as a small step back towards the closed politics of the mid-20th century, at a time when the country and the people are striving for the open politics that must usher in the start of the 21st century.

These points relate to the process of political transformation and the manner in which decisions are taken. The substance of our political transformation, however, as manifested in the new electoral law, is another matter. Clearly, the law had to be changed because the old system was antiquated and unfair.

The vehement opposition to the one-person, one-vote system is

very telling, because the opposition has come mainly from established politicians who gained from the old system, and who stand to lose from the new system. Grassroots opposition to the changes are rather mild, for three reasons: Most people are not deeply involved in the process of electoral politics, most of the politicians opposing the changes have little credibility with ordinary people, and the fact that King Hussein personally approved the changes and explained them in his television speech leads most people to accept them without serious questioning.

It is interesting that the strongest opposition comes from politicians on the right and left of the political spectrum. I suspect this is because these folks are precisely the ones who have the most to lose from a new system in which voters have to make their electoral decisions on the basis of practical political programmes and the capacity of politicians to deliver to their constituents, rather than on the old basis of personal ties, tribal affiliations and emotional sentiments.

In time, I suspect it will become clear that the advantage of the one-person, one-vote system is that it will force more and more voters to think carefully before casting their vote. It is inevitable that tribal/personal/emotional factors will slowly diminish as determinants of people's votes; instead, the ability of politicians to respond to people's real needs and concerns will become the important factors in how voters choose their representatives.

The new electoral law represents an important turning point in our modern political culture, especially as it follows the formation of some 20 political parties in the country. The combination of these two factors will force the start of a process that is vital for the development of a serious democratic system — the process of political accountability. While many voters will still choose their MPs on the basis of tribal/personal/emotional criteria, the parliamentary elections this autumn should see the start of an accountability dynamic by which candidates try to respond to voters' real life concerns and needs, especially in the economic sphere.

This shift from a traditional/tribal political culture to a more modern/pragmatic, issues-oriented political culture will take place over a period of many decades, and several generations. The central element in political governance is how well the political decision-making process responds to people's real life needs and

aspirations. The old slogans and the tribal affiliations that have defined Jordanian and Arab politics for many decades have frayed badly; today, they no longer sufficiently respond to the people's basic life needs in a context of rising economic and social pressures, in Jordan as throughout the Arab World. A new form of political governance is required to address the challenges of the rest of this decade and the early years of the next decade. That form will have to be built on the participatory and accountability principles that have now started to define our new political culture, as represented by organised parties that must respond to people's needs and an electoral system that compels people to choose their MPs with care.

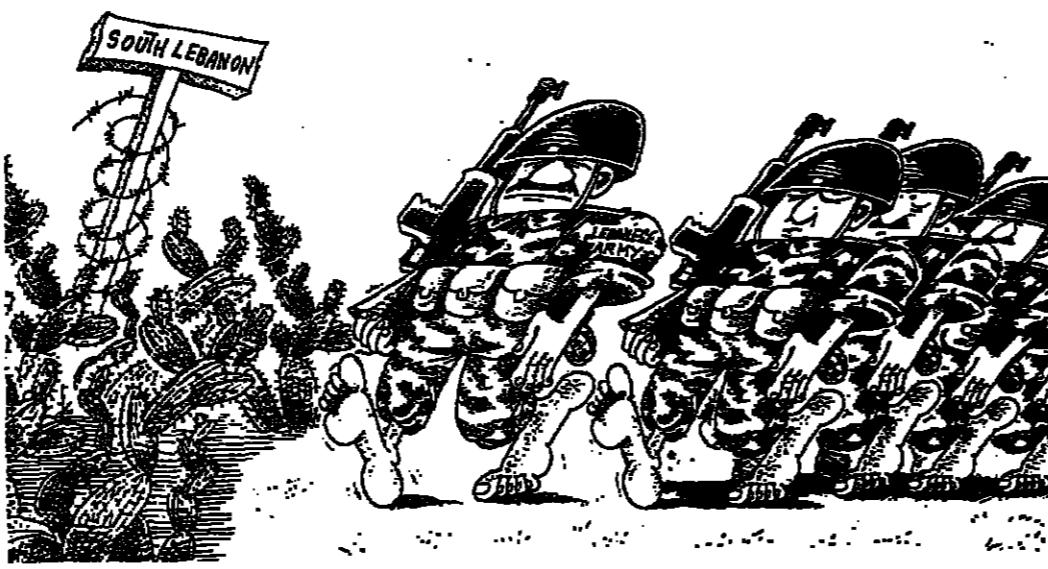
The political elite's opposition to the new electoral law hides a deeper reality that defines most of the Arab World. Simply put, the political power structures and the men that have dominated Arab governance for most of this century have limped into the mid-1990s with an almost total lack of credibility. This is most obvious in Jordan in the form of the old men who are vainly trying to use the advent of political parties to maintain their grip on power. The fellows who most vehemently oppose the new electoral law are the same ones who are desperately trying to figure out why the public is largely ignoring their new political parties.

In brief, most of the old men of Jordanian and Arab politics are largely discredited. They are suffering from an acute crisis of ability, confidence, credibility and legitimacy. Many of them have tried to use political parties to camouflage their failures, irrelevance and inadequacies, but the public is not fooled.

Whether from the right, centre or left, the old guard recognises that their former ways are neither convincing nor sustainable and therefore they would like to preserve the tribal/emotional mode of electoral politics as a last, desperate means of retaining power. It is not working, and it will not work, because the basic intelligence and rationality of the people, coupled with the basic humanistic vision and historical perceptions of our top leadership, will force the country to rise to a higher, more responsive, level of political governance.

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M. KAHIL



## Lebanon accord paves way for talks and violence

By Bradley Burston  
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A U.S.-brokered ceasefire that ended Israel's blitz against Arab guerrillas last month appears to have ensured that Middle East peace talks will go on but so will South Lebanon's cycle of bloodshed.

Details of the unwritten accord have never been spelled out.

But after nine Israeli soldiers were killed in guerrilla bombings in South Lebanon on Thursday, Israeli leaders lined up to say the attacks did not violate the terms of the ceasefire.

"It wasn't a breach of the agreement, it was a breach of peace," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said of the attacks, the deadliest in one day on Israeli soldiers since the Jewish state declared its "security zone" in South Lebanon in 1985.

Mr. Rabin ordered a limited air strike in reprisal and rejected as "the worst thing that could happen" opposition calls to suspend Arab-Israeli peace talks due to resume in Washington on Aug. 31.

Pro-Iranian Hizbullah guerrillas fired scores of rockets last month at northern Israeli towns. But most analysts saw Israel's week-long blitz as revenge for the killing of soldiers in the zone.

Israeli and Hizbullah leaders have offered differing interpretations of the truce hammered out with Syria, Lebanon and Israel on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East visit early this month.

Since the ceasefire was declared on July 31, Mr. Rabin and his aides have backed away from initial statements that the understandings guaranteed freedom of action for Israeli forces and their client South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the zone.

Now their view is more limited. "What we have said (to Hizbullah) is: 'Stop shooting (rockets) over the Galilee and we won't touch you,'" Mr. Peres said on Friday.

Senior aide Oded Ben-Ami said the accord meant the terms of engagement for Israel and Hizbullah had returned to past levels.

"Freedom of action" means the army and the SLA are free to

defend themselves in the security zone as they were before the events that led to operation Accountability," Mr. Ben-Ami said.

Implicit in Israel's interpretation is that it must limit its response to targeting the perceived source of the violence, directing strikes against guerrilla bases and trying to avoid civilians.

More than 130 people were killed, 200,000 forced to flee, and numerous houses were reduced to rubble during the blitz.

Israeli leaders said they wanted the refugee exodus to put pressure on Beirut and Damascus to curb Hizbullah (Party of God).

Hizbullah has vowed to resume rocket attacks at Israel if it again strikes civilian areas. The Lebanese army said guerrillas had a "natural right" to strike at Israeli forces occupying the south in 1985.

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which have ground on with little progress since they began 21 months ago. The parties are supposed to agree to a lasting peace in exchange for a return of Arab land occupied by the Israelis and self-rule for Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin reportedly told Mr. Christopher last week that if Syria, which Israel charges allows arms shipments to reach the guerrillas, did not restrain Hizbullah then Israel would.

"This is a permanent message," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Sunday.

But he added that the demand on Syria was not a precondition to the talks.

Yona Tannenbaum, father of one of the soldiers killed on Thursday, criticised the understanding.

"The accord gives Hizbullah permission to do whatever it wants to Israeli soldiers in the zone as long as one Katyusha does not fall on civilians," he said.

But army chief Ehud Barak offered the view that it was likely to return to normal along the most volatile area of Arab-Israeli confrontation.

"We are like boxers in a ring," he said. "One cannot avoid an occasional punch."

Twenty of the boys are Israelis, including four Arabs — a Druze and three Muslims. Eleven are Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and 15 are from Egypt.

After being chosen for the programme, two 14-year-old Arab boys, Iyad and Nidal, invited the other 18 Israelis to a party in their village, Baka Al Gharbia, near Hadera in central Israel.

And when the teens gathered in Tel Aviv to go to the United States, Ms. Rosenblum said: "The Arab and Jewish parents

## Middle Eastern kids in U.S. plant 'seeds of peace'

By Verena Dobnik  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Assaf, a Jewish teenager, lost his father to a bomb planted by Palestinians in the heart of Jerusalem. Fadi, a Palestinian who lives in Jerusalem, has relatives in jail for protesting Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

For three weeks in America, the two boys are among 46 Jews, Muslims and Christians getting together to sow the "seeds of peace" of a two-week summer camp in Maine and to Washington, D.C.

The programme's founder, John Wallach, said he is "bringing the next generation together, before they have been poisoned by the hostility of their region."

Can a summer camp in America make a difference?

Fadi, 15, said he has demonstrated against Israeli occupation of Nablus in the West Bank.

Some of his relatives "got 100-year prison terms," he said in a quiet, resigned voice Saturday. "We want our land," the tall, dark youth said firmly, adding that "Israel should leave Gaza and the West Bank," which have been occupied by the Jewish state since the 1967 Middle East war.

"But basically, I disagree with both sides doing the killing," he added.

Assaf's father was killed in the 1980s by a bomb planted by Palestinian guerrillas in Jerusalem, said Hadara Rosenblum, a counselor for the Israeli delegation who works for her country's education ministry.

"But he still wants to turn hatred into peace," Ms. Rosenblum said.

The boy's last names were not released. Programme organisers said they want them to speak freely in the United States, without facing anger when they go home.

Terry Anderson, who was held hostage for seven years in Lebanon, told the youths at lunch Friday that as a result of the bonds forged here, the people their parents call enemies "will have a face."

"It's difficult to hate somebody you know," said Mr. Anderson, the former Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press who was held captive in Lebanon for seven years.

"There will be a lot of people pushing at you to continue the road of violence, bitterness, talking about revenge, talking about the wrongs your people have suffered," he warned the children. He urged them to "resist that pressure."

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# Features

## North African trade has taken root in France

By Sabine Guez



Opening from early morning well into the night, North African grocers in Paris have many faithful customers (WNL photo)

opening hours, I offer home delivery even on small orders, and along with the basic fruit and coffee I carry a number of exotic products.

With a combination of cheerfulness and hard work, Mr. Cheikh seems to have turned the business of grocery trading into more than an expertise, almost an art form. Six days a week from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m., a wide assortment of the inhabitants of the Odeon area in Paris (close to the student-filled Latin Quarter) descend upon the lively store that he and his brother manage for their father. Grandmothers, aspiring artists, children, art gallery employees, all the regulars know that the Cheikhs will provide them with last minute groceries, an easy laugh, and credit if necessary.

Things have certainly changed in the convenience store business. The French, and particularly the Parisians, would now be at a loss if these "Corner Arabs" as they are called, all of a sudden decided to close shop and go home to Morocco, Tunisia or Algeria. By opening early, closing late, and offering such luxuries as constant affability and free home delivery, they have become indispensable. Today, two thirds of the Paris area grocers are North Africans and they have spread throughout France, mostly in towns with 5,000 or more inhabitants. And although the economic recession has hurt them too, they manage to survive through sheer hard work and obstinacy.

They mostly arrived in France in the mid-1960s, but they have been traders for centuries: as Mr. Cheikh likes to point out, the Prophet Mohammad was a trader himself. And although they come from different countries, they share the same origin — most of them are part of the Berber group which, despite converting to Islam during the 12th century, has retained its own identity.

Even before they started their emigration to France, they had to concede that no French

natives were willing to take their succession.

Along the same street other stores are going bankrupt, but the young Moroccan is not afraid: "I have built my customer base, and I treat my customers the same way I treat my friends, even the ones who belong to the Le Pen party (French right wing political party opposing immigration)."

One just has to work hard, and competition is good because it forces one to be different, to look for something new." To buy the store from one of his uncles, he borrowed from the bank, but he has also made use of a large network of family and friends who have granted him loans without interest. Thus, he has recently bought a second store, just north of Paris, that he is running

with a cousin and a friend. He expects his assistants to go on their own when they have "learned the business."

Obviously, North African store owners do know the business: they are even taking over the pretax profit reaches 25 per cent of his yearly sales of \$300,000.

Two-thirds of his business is conducted between 6 and 10 p.m. when Monoprix is closed.

This business is also largely a family business, and each "family," or group of people somewhat related, owns an average of two stores, although now some run as many as 20, making the most of the financial and human resources of the group. This concept of "everything in the family" is a powerful factor in helping North-African storekeepers pull through the recession and survive the stagnation that has characterized French consumers' purchases for the last two years.

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COMPANY'S NAME	TRADES	PERCENT VOLUME IN JU	OPENING PRICE IN JU	CLOSING PRICE IN JU
ABAD BANK	34,422	24.62	173.025	177.025
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	26,398	5.82	171.125	171.125
BANK OF JORDAN	10,245	1.25	171.125	171.125
INDUSTRIAL BANK	1,325	0.45	171.125	171.125
TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran earned \$1.1 billion from carpet exports last year, making carpet-weaving the country's most lucrative industry after oil, the trade minister said Monday.	19,145	1.25	171.125	171.125
THE HOUSING BANK	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN PETRO. BANK	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	24,125	2.22	171.125	171.125
BALI EQUITY INVESTMENT	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
ABAD BANKING COMPANY	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
AMARACI SEAS INSURANCE	9,922	1.82	171.125	171.125
JORDANIAN INSURANCE	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	24,282	1.74	171.125	171.125
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN MOBILITY VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN INVESTMENT COMPANIES	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JOSEPHINE ESTATE INVESTMENT	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JOSEPHINE INTERNATIONAL	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JOSEPHINE EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JOSEPHINE TRADING & IMPORTS	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
JORDAN WORKERS COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	10,147	1.25	171.125	171.125
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## U.N. prepares to send aid convoy to Mostar Muslims

MOSTAR (R) — The United Nations Monday prepared to send food and medicine to besieged Muslims in Mostar, but the Bosnian Croats controlling access to the city were still refusing permission for convoys to enter.

The U.N. hopes to deliver 130 tonnes of supplies Wednesday to the Muslim side of the city in southwest Bosnia, where 55,000 people are trapped. Food, water and medical supplies are scarce.

A U.N. advance convoy Sunday made a small delivery of medical supplies to the makeshift hospital in the Muslim quarter, which is struggling to treat patients without anaesthesia, electricity or running water.

U.N. officials were holding fresh negotiations Monday with the Bosnian Croat forces (HVO) who control the access routes into Mostar to gain entry to the Muslim sector, but reported little progress.

"We very much hope that Wednesday will be the day that

the HVO finally decides they are no longer going to be bloody-minded and they will allow us to take a convoy through," said Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

She said the price of taking aid to the Muslims may be to deliver an equal amount to the Croat-held part of the city, which still needed help, although less than the Muslim sector.

The Muslim-held part of the west bank of the Neretva River has been reduced to rubble by fighting between Muslim-led government forces and HVO.

Most Muslim civilians have moved to the east bank, joining residents crowded into buildings on streets furthest away from the constant threat of mortar and sniper fire. Even here, there are many bombed-out buildings.

The quarter was relatively quiet Monday morning, after almost continuous sniping and shelling over the past few days.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in Sarajevo appealed to the United Nations Security Council for help in getting emergency aid to the Muslim-held quarter, describing the siege as a "true catastrophe."

In a letter to the U.N., Mr. Izetbegovic said Bosnian Croat forces had conducted an ethnic cleansing campaign to clear the area of Muslims and urged that the southwestern city be declared a U.N. safe area similar to Sarajevo.

Amid the fighting, Serb, Croat and Muslim assemblies are due to meet separately this week to discuss a proposed peace agreement that emerged last week from peace talks in Geneva.

The Bosnian Republic's parliament will meet Friday to debate the plan, but Mr. Izetbegovic said he would tell the representatives to reject the compromise agreement.

"I will not propose that they vote for such a proposal," he told

reporters Sunday. If further talks fail, the Bosnian president said differences would have to be settled in combat.

Government army officers dismissed the peace map that would carve Bosnia into three ethnic mini-states.

"If the government decides to accept the plan there would be a military coup," said an officer who identified himself as Nezir, deputy commander of the 17th Brigade in the central Bosnian city of Travnik.

Croat and Serb leaders have said the plan was the best compromise that could be achieved.

"I will fight for acceptance of the plan," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Reuters Television. He said if the war continued, the Muslims would be held responsible.

A source in the Bosnian Serb self-styled平行 in Pale outside Sarajevo, said the assembly expected to meet Saturday and Sunday.



An elderly man pulls his belongings on a luggage trolley as he walks by a parking lot full of car wrecks in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1993

### Michael Jackson launches Asian tour

BANGKOK (AFP) — U.S. pop star Michael Jackson launched the Asian leg of his world tour here Monday with a press conference at which he sang not a single note, spoke only nine words and left hundreds of female fans screaming his name. The 34-year-old Jackson rode onto the stage of a hotel ballroom in a local three-wheeled conveyance known as a "tuk-tuk," which was decorated with the logo of the soft drink company that is sponsoring his Dangerous tour. Thai girls in native dress strewed flower petals in his path as the singer stepped onto the stage, and dozens in the crowd shouted "Michael, Michael," trying to get his attention. Throughout the 45-minute media event, loudspeaker blared one Jackson hit after another. Then Tony Illesley, president of Pepsi-Cola Asia Pacific, presented Jackson with a check for two million baht (\$80,000) for the singer's Heal the World Foundation. Part of the money will go to charities in Thailand, Mr. Illesley said. Asked to say a "few" words, Jackson said: "I love you, and thank you very, very much," as scores of photographers — most of them standing on chairs — snapped his picture. Jackson's tour began last summer in Europe. Details of the Asian leg have been kept shrouded in secrecy, but he is known to be heading for Singapore after Bangkok and will also appear in Taipei.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said Sunday he would appeal to international mediators for help in the dispute.

### L.A. county coroner opens little shop of horrors

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office has its own little shop of horrors where it markets the morbid — from personalised toe tags to skeleton tote bags. There's even beach towel with a chalk body outline. The gift shop called Skeletons In The Closet also sells T-shirts, coffee mugs and other morgue souvenirs. Proceeds go to a programme aimed at scaring youths out of drinking and driving. "Bodies and death are our business. We're just trying to take advantage of it," said Marilyn Lewis, the coroner's new marketing programme coordinator.

The \$4 personalised toe tags, used to identify cadavers, are "the real things," she said. The marketing push has raised \$15,000 over the past year for a programme that brings convicted 16-to 21-year-old drunk drivers to the morgue for a firsthand look at the deadly effects of roadway intoxication.

They also forced UNO leader Alfredo Cesar and other hostages up against the windows of the party's headquarters in their underwear, as human shields against a feared police attack which never came.

In an explosion of anger earlier Sunday, Commando 31's men fired shots in the air and at the roof of a nearby building where they said they saw snipers. No one was hurt and police did not return fire.

The release could be a major advance towards resolving the two hostage standoffs, which have highlighted the bitter post-war divisions lingering in this nation of just over three million people, one of the poorest in the Americas.

In Managua, leftist gunmen are holding hostage Vice-President Virgilio Godoy, about eight journalists and a score of conservative

## Russia rejects Lithuanian mediation call

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia rejected Monday a Lithuanian call for mediation in the dispute over the Baltic republic's claim for compensation for 50 years of Soviet occupation.

"The attempt to put pressure on Russia by using third countries will produce only a negative response," said Vyacheslav Kostikov, the spokesman for President Boris Yeltsin, quoted by Interfax.

Democratic Russia has no responsibility for the Stalinist era, of which Russia was equally a victim, Mr. Kostikov said.

A Lithuanian-Russian summit, due to have taken place Monday

over the pullout.

"Negotiations are the only civilised way to solve problems and the alternative means of political, military and economic pressure are unacceptable," said the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry in a statement carried by Interfax.

Mr. Kostikov dismissed Lithuania's demand for \$146 billion in compensation as "unfounded."

Earlier the Vilnius government condemned Moscow's decision Sunday to halt its withdrawal of the 2,500 Russian troops in Lithuania and to break off talks

in Moscow, was postponed indefinitely.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has said the withdrawal, due to be completed by Aug. 31, would continue, but "with a delay suitable to Russia, of which the Lithuanians will be informed."

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said Sunday he would appeal to international mediators for help in the dispute.

### L.A. county coroner opens little shop of horrors

## Rightist Nicaraguans free 20 hostages

EL ZUNGOANO, Nicaragua (R)

— Rightist guerrillas released Sunday 20 of the 38 Nicaraguan government officials and leftist Sandinista politicians they have been holding hostage since Thursday, officials said.

He said the accord was not signed by Mr. Talavera but by his brother and top lieutenant, Salvador Talavera, after consultations with El Chacal.

A Reuter correspondent saw the 20 people, 17 soldiers and three government officials, arrive in the nearby town of Quilali

for their release.

Francisco Mayorga, spokesman for a negotiating commission seeking the release of the hostages near this remote mountain village in northern Nicaragua, said the remaining 18 hostages held by the rightists could also be freed Thursday, officials said.

But as the captives walked free in this northern village, a second hostage standoff continued in the capital, Managua, where leftist

guerrillas have seized the country's vice-president and a score of other top politicians.

The release could be a major advance towards resolving the two hostage standoffs, which have highlighted the bitter post-war divisions lingering in this nation of just over three million people, one of the poorest in the Americas.

In Managua, leftist gunmen are holding hostage Vice-President Virgilio Godoy, about eight journalists and a score of conservative

politicians of the National Opposition Union (UNO).

The Managua gunmen have said they will not release their captives until all those held by the former contras are freed.

The leader of the Managua group of leftist gunmen said earlier Sunday that two hostages would be released on health grounds, but it was unclear when.

Mr. Godoy was not among those to be released.

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## Angolan forces retake eastern town

SAO TOME (Agencies) —

Angola occupied Camanongue last October when it went back to war against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola).

The two sides signed agreements to end 16 years of civil war in 1991 but UNITA took up arms again last year after losing elections to the MPLA.

State radio and UNITA radio both reported that government and rebel representatives were due to take part in a series of meetings in the Zimbabwean capital Harare Monday with the aim of resurrecting the peace process.

The radios said the U.N. special representative in Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura and UNITA's acting secretary for foreign affairs, Paulo Lukamba Gato, would also meet Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

Mr. Beye and Mr. De Moura

flown into Harare at the weekend.

Mr. Beye's predecessor, Briton Margaret Anstee, organised UNA-sponsored peace talks in the Ivory Coast capital Abidjan earlier this year, but they collapsed after six weeks when UNITA refused to sign a peace protocol which the government accepted.

Mr. Beye said Sunday that no date had yet been set for a new round of peace talks, which were expected to start in Harare or another African capital by Sept. 15 at the latest.

The U.N. Security Council met on Sept. 15 to review the Angolan situation. It has threatened UNITA with sanctions if it does not honour the 1991 peace agreements by then.

"The Angolan army's push against UNITA positions in central and southern regions this month has shaken the rebel movement," the Jornal de Angola newspaper said here Monday.

### 5 Filipino prisoners escape jail using guitar

MANILA (R) — Five Filipino prisoners broke out of jail Monday by using the strings of a guitar.

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### China cracks biggest pornography case since 1949

PEKING (R) — Police in north China have cracked the biggest pornography case since the Communist state was set up in 1949, seizing 680,000 salacious magazines, the official Press and Publishing Journal said Monday. The case involved five printing factories in the provinces of Hebei and Shandong, which in the past two years produced 850,000 illegal publications, including the pornographic magazines. After a shipment of magazines was uncovered in Hebei, police arrested the chief of one of the factories and two of his assistants. The factory, set up without a licence in February, had 45 staff, including 20 women — the youngest under 13, the newspaper said.

### Venice gondoliers repay fleeced French tourists

VENICE, Italy (R) — Remorseful Venetian gondoliers clubbed together to pay back a French couple charged an extortionate \$500,000 lire (\$340) for an hour's ride along the city's canals, Italy's newspaper reported Monday. The couple, from Brittany, had filed a formal complaint before they received a full refund from the gondoliers and a "gret" at the incident.

## Moscow events cast shadow over autumn offensive

IGN MINISTER Andrei Kozyrev said.

Mr. Glazev linked his sudden fall — his aircraft was recalled to Moscow hours after leaving for the chief prosecutor, a second minister stepped down accusing "mafia bands" of making a push for Kremlin power.

Recent events in Moscow provide an increasingly sinister backdrop to President Boris Yeltsin's struggle with Russia's conservative parliament.

As Mr. Yeltsin prepares his approach to "autumn offensive" against the hardliners the shadow of corruption is growing, longer, with both sides slinging accusations at each other.

Foreign Trade Minister Sergei Glazev resigned at the weekend, declaring what all hardliners had long said: "Mafia bands" feeding on corruption were nosing their way to power. He accused two close Yeltsin allies of hounding him from office.

Justice Minister Yuri Yakovlev singed out one firm operating from abroad that he said was set up on Communist Party funds smuggled from Russia.

"This firm hangs like a dark shadow over Russia, its aim to undermine our economy," he said.

But Mr. Yeltsin and his conservative rivals differ on who stands atop that pyramid, controlling the officials, taking the bribes. Mr. Yeltsin's commission points the finger directly at pre-

idential enemies, including Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi.

Andrei Makarov, head of the presidential commission, accuses Mr. Rutskoi of keeping a secret Swiss bank account. Mr. Rutskoi denies the charge, insisting he has "suitcases full" of evidence against the Yeltsin administration.

Mr. Makarov raised the temperature of the debate by declaring Chief Prosecutor Valentine Stepanov had entertained ideas of his murder. He produced a tape transcript of an elliptical telephone conversation between Mr. Stepanov, and Dmitry Yakovlev, a former KGB official now living in Canada.

Mr. Stepanov acknowledged on television Sunday the conversation had taken place but denied murder was being discussed. He suggested Mr. Yakovlev was trying to compromise him.

For all the turmoil of the post-Soviet era, Russia has been spared the political violence blighting other former republics.

But it is unclear how far Mr. Yeltsin can risk going in his purge without undermining his own power. Corruption, inherited from the Soviet order and flourishing in the chaos of Russia's market transition, seems to know no political boundaries.

# Sports

## World Cup Bolivia about to qualify; Brazil win

By the Associated Press

BOLIVIA VIRTUALLY clinched its first World Cup berth since 1950 while Brazil and Argentina both took the lead in their respective groups with victories Sunday as South American World Cup qualifying started to look the way most had predicted.

The Bolivians, the surprise of the tournament, broke open a 1-0 game at halftime with six goals in the second half, two each by Milton Melgar and Marco Etcheverry to rout Venezuela 7-0 and earn their fifth victory in as many games.

Outscoring opponents 20-2, Bolivia has 10 points, four better than Brazil and six better than Ecuador and Uruguay. Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador have three games remaining. Uruguay has four. Only the top two teams from South American Group B will qualify for the 24-team World Cup field in the United States.

Brazil claimed second place in the group with a 2-0 victory over Ecuador and Argentina moved back ahead of Colombia and into the group's lead with a 2-1 victory over Peru.

Colombia slipped behind on goal differential with a 1-1 draw at Paraguay.

In Europe, Martin Dahlin saved Sweden from France and keeping both atop Group 6.

Bolivia's victory set off celebrations throughout the country and La Paz streets were filled with fans waving flags and banners.

It was Bolivia's second rout over Venezuela, having won 7-1 on July 18 in both team's openers in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, Bebeto scored one in the first half and then set up Dunga for another in the second in a match that may not please all of Brazil's critics, but should at least tame them for the moment.

With a defense that didn't require goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel to make any saves, Brazil improved to 2-2-1, ahead of Ecuador and Uruguay in the race for the second of two Group B berths.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina Gabriel Batistuta and Ramon Medina Bello scored five minutes apart in the first half to pace Argentina.

Batistuta gave Argentina the lead in the 33rd minute and Medina Bello added his in the 38th to the delight of the capacity crowd of 50,000 at River Plate Stadium.

STUTTGART (AP) — The United States' magnificent quarter-milers brought the World Athletics Championship to a glorious end Sunday with a world record run in the relay.

And but for a photo-finish decision which went the other way, the Americans would have won all four relays on the final day.

Gail Devers had missed her third gold medal when Irma Privalova closed her eyes and beat her in a photo-finish to the 4x100 relay.

Michael Johnson, the individual gold medalist, anchored the 4x400m win in 2 min 54.29sec.

Then sliced 1.34 sec off the standard set in last year's Olympics when the only difference was that Steve Lewis was running. Butch Reynolds, individual silver medalist, replaced him here for his first gold medal since anchoring the U.S. team in the 1987 World Championships. Andrew Valmon and Quincy Watts ran the first two legs.

Johnson was officially timed at 42.98sec for the last leg, beating the previous fastest of 43.1sec, set by Watts in the second leg in Barcelona.

That took the United States' medals to 13 gold, seven silver and six bronze.

Jeani Miles, the women's 400m champion, won her second gold by anchoring the U.S. relay team. Privalova's strong finish

## World Athletics Championships

### China sweeps women's distance events Russia, U.S. win relays as competition ends



The U.S. 4x400 metre relay team of (left to right) Butch Reynolds, Andrew Valmon, Quincy Watts and Michael Johnson pose in front of the scoreboard after winning gold and setting a new world record (AFP photo)

brought Russia only their third gold medal. Their 3-8-5 tally put them second to China who completed a clean sweep of the women's distance races when Liu Dong won the 1,500m, Qu Yunxia won the 3,000m and Junxia took the 10,000m.

China's other gold came from shot putter Huang Zhihong who in Tokyo two years ago became the first Asian world champion.

Samson Kitui Ilung himself across the line to win a silver for Kenya in the men's 4x400 relay.

That was his second of the day after Moses Tanui lost his shoe and the race to Ethiopia's Haile Gebrsellasie on the final lap of the 10,000m.

Tanui, champion in Tokyo in 1991, kicked his shoe away at the start of the last lap but despite opening up a gap on the backstretch he was overtaken 30 metres from the finish.

His shoe came off when Gebrsellasie, who had followed the three Kenyans throughout the race, trod on his heel.

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in two years' time.

Linford Christie, 100m champion, and Colin Jackson, 110m hurdles winner, collected silvers as the British 4x400m relay squad finished behind the United States.

Britain's other gold medalist, intermediate hurdler Sally Gunnell, won a silver in the women's 4x300m relay.

Jackson and Gunnell, along with Russian triple jumper Ana Biryukova, were the only other world record-breakers at these championships.

A world junior record for the women's 10,000m was erased when China's Wang Junxia revealed she was born in 1973 and not in 1976.

World record-holder Javier Sotomayor added the world championship to his Olympic title in the high jump for Cuba's second gold medal.

Ioannet Quintero had won the women's high jump on Saturday.

Tina Hattestad won Norway's only gold medal in the women's javelin.

Merlene Ottey, denied the 100m title by a questionable reading of the photo-finish, won her first championship gold medal in 13 years of top competition in the 200m. She added a bronze in Sunday's sprint relay but could not say if, at 33, she would go to

World record-holder Javier Sotomayor clinches his first after winning the gold in the high jump (AFP photo)

to the next.

Courier did not drop a set all

week on the way to his victory

and he only lost his serve twice

while facing 12 break points in 46

service games this tournament.

"It is the best I have felt going in (to the Open)," he said. "Who knows what that means. I felt pretty poor the last two years and reached the finals and semis at the Open."

Courier won \$144,000 for his fifth title of the year. Only Sampras and Austrian Thomas Muster have won as many titles in

1993. Only two of his 14 career titles have come between July and December.

The fourth-ranked Becker, who won \$75,905, was hoping to win his third title of 1993. Even though he lost, he was encouraged by his performance.

"I've come from a real first-round struggle to the final where I was playing really good against Jim," said Boris. "I think this was probably one of my best tournaments all year, even though I didn't win it. Just one week before the last grand slam of the year, it is very encouraging."

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Tokyo and 57 countries, 11 up on Tokyo, placed athletes in the top eight.

Three athletes from the former Soviet empire were caught using drugs.

Dmitry Polyunn of Uzbekistan was stripped of his men's javelin bronze medal, Liya Nurutdinova of Russia, and Lithuania's Olympic discus champion Roman Ubartas face four-year bans for steroid use.

Nurutdinova, world champion in Tokyo in 1991 and Olympic silver medalist last year, finished seventh in the women's 800m final after failing. Ubartas was fourth here.

Morceli ends controversial week in style

At last people talked about his pace instead of his prize.

Nouredine Morceli, who threatened to boycott the World Athletics Championships because no prize money was being paid, walked away with the most prestigious medal of all when he successfully defended his 1,500m record title Sunday.

The Algerian world record holder burst away from the field in a brilliant last lap to win the blue riband event in three minutes 34.24 seconds with Olympic champion Fermín Cacho of Spain in his wake.

Cacho, who was left in Morceli's slipstream 300 metres out, finished second in 3:35.56 with Abdi Bilal of Somalia third in 3:35.96.

Morceli ended the most controversial week of his life wrapped in an Algerian flag as he jogged around the Stuttgart track in a lap of honour.

More attention has been focused on Morceli's protests about appearance money in Stuttgart than his form on the track.

The Algerian alleged that eight-times Olympic champion Carl Lewis was paid appearance money — a claim vehemently denied by both Lewis's manager and the sport's governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

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JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1993 9



### Krabbe banned for 2 years

STUTTGART (AP) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation banned German sprinter Katrin Krabbe for two years effective Sunday for bringing the sport into disrepute.

Krabbe, winner of the 100 and 200 at the 1991 World Championships, was suspended for four years after failing an out-of-competition drug test last year.

In contradiction of IAAF sanctions, the German Federation DLV reduced the suspension to one year. The DLV said it had no provisions for out-of-competition testing in its own rules and that German courts did not accept a four-year ban.

In May, the IAAF Council said Krabbe would remain suspended until it decided whether the case needed to go to arbitration.

The German Federation has been pushing the IAAF Council to make a final decision or take the case to arbitration.

The avoid arbitration, the council decided to suspend Krabbe for two years for bringing the sport into disrepute, but not on doping charges. No arbitration can be called in case an athlete is suspended on doping charges, said the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The ban means Krabbe will not be able to compete at the 1995 World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden, just as she missed the worlds that ended Sunday in Stuttgart.

Thorsten Heuser, Krabbe's legal adviser, said he would put pressure on the German Federation to request arbitration. But Heuser spoke before it became clear that Krabbe was being banned for doping charges, not for doping.

German track sources have said that the IAAF Council feels it would lose its case before an arbitration panel.

Krabbe already won an earlier doping case that went to arbitration.

The IAAF two-year ban also covers two other German sprinters, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr.

The sources said Krabbe and the two other sprinters had admitted taking clenbuterol, and had made hostile statements directed at the IAAF, providing the reason to ban them for bringing the sport into disrepute.

Krabbe admitted taking asthma medicine which contained clenbuterol, but said she didn't know it was illegal. The IAAF considers clenbuterol a banned substance.

# Egypt opens new trial, limits media coverage

CAIRO (Agencies) — Military judges on Monday for the second time in three days limited news coverage at trials of Muslim extremists accused of anti-government violence.

The trials, where defendants are kept in court-room cages, provide a dramatic forum for the suspects to voice complaints against the government and accusations of prison torture.

Western reporters were barred Monday from covering the opening of the trial of eight Muslim extremists accused of killing two people in a failed attempt to assassinate an army general.

Egyptian reporters were allowed in as "ordinary citizens" and then agreed, after discussion with the judge, not to publish details that would be damaging to state security.

On Saturday, journalists working for foreign news agencies were blocked from a military court sentencing of Muslim extremists and the robbery of Christian jewellers to finance their radical activities. Four were ordered hanged.

A military intelligence officer told Western reporters Saturday they were barred because their coverage would be damaging to Egypt's image abroad.

The limitations on coverage follow renewed criticism of military courts after a civilian court nine days ago acquitted 24 suspected militants of murder charges, maintaining prosecutors had depended on evidence from confessions forced by torture.

The issue of mistreatment of prisoners has been a recurring theme at recent trials of extremists.

Radicals have waged a violent campaign since early 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with an Islamic state. More than 190 people have been killed in their attacks or battles between the extremists and authorities.

The militants brought to the Red Mountain courthouse in Cairo on Monday are accused of opening fire on July 18 at the motorcade of Major General Osman Shaheen, commander of Cairo's central military area.

He was not wounded, but two gunmen, a policeman and a passerby were killed. Six others were injured.

The extremist Al Gamma Al Islamiyah claimed responsibility, saying the attack was to avenge

the hanging of Muslim extremists. Since December, 14 militants have been hanged after convictions by military courts. Twelve others still face death sentences.

Four of the eight defendants in Monday's case are still at large. All face the death penalty if convicted.

Defence attorneys told the head of the three-judge military court, Major General Abdul Moneim Nafea, that two of their clients had been beaten in jail, Egyptian reporters said. The judge ordered the suspects examined by doctors.

The military prosecution said the wounds were incurred when they were beaten by civilians during their arrest.

President Hosni Mubarak started sending Muslim extremist cases to military courts in October to speed up trials.

The military court ordered a news blackout in the case just after the attack on Gen. Shaheen. The court ordered limitations on news coverage to continue when the case reconvenes next Sunday.

## Pakistan pleads inability

Militants wanted by Egypt for bomb attacks and assassination attempts might be moving freely between Pakistan and Afghanistan under forged passports and false names, a diplomat said Monday.

Islamabad had told Cairo it had been unable to trace in its any Muslim militants that the Egyptian authorities would like to see sent back, he added.

A three-man Pakistani delegation visited Egypt at the end of June and held talks for three days with Interior Minister Hassan Al Alf and other senior security officials.

The Pakistanis provided detailed lists of Egyptians who visited Pakistan but the Egyptians said there was no record of up to 30 wanted militants.

The Egyptian officials told the Pakistanis the suspects might have entered under different names and forged passports.

Egyptian officials have raised the issue again after last Wednesday's bomb attack on Gen. Alfi in Cairo. A government source said on Monday Cairo was pressing Islamabad to do its utmost to find and expel Egyptian militants.

Security authorities, stumped for clues, believe the attack on Gen. Alfi was carried out by

members of Al Jihad group which they say is led by Ayman Al Zawahri who moves between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

Mohammad Sidiq Saljoque, the Afghan ambassador to Cairo, told Reuters about 300 Egyptians had been living in Afghanistan but many of them had left.

Pakistan has come under pressure from the United States and several Arab states, particularly Egypt, Algeria and Saudi Arabia, who say Muslim militants were using its Peshawar province as a safe haven to plan operations elsewhere.

Earlier this year, Pakistani authorities told Arabs in the country without valid papers to leave or face arrest.

Thousands of Arabs went to Pakistan to help Mujahideen guerrillas in neighbouring Afghanistan during the 14-year war against the Soviet-backed government. Many of them stayed on after Moscow pulled out its troops.

## Two killed in shootout

A policeman and a villager were killed in an exchange of fire Sunday in a police sweep to collect unlicensed firearms in villages in a southern Egypt area of anti-government activism, the interior Ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement issued in Cairo that a policeman was killed and three were wounded when gunmen opened fire as police entered the Village of Hawatka near Assuit, which is 320 kilometres south of Cairo. A villager died in the return fire, two were injured and three were arrested, the statement added.

Assuit and nearby villages are strongholds for Muslim extremists.

But police said that the move into the village was to collect unlicensed arms used in southern Egyptian villages to settle vendettas, or feuds between families that grow out of individual clashes. Villagers often resist confiscation of their arms, and similar shootouts have taken place in the past.

A similar police push into other villages earlier Sunday resulted in the arrest of 45 people and seizure of dozens of weapons, police said. Some of those arrested were suspected members of outlawed extremist groups.

# Iraqis in Saudi camp seek refuge abroad

DUBAI (R) — Thousands of Iraqis who fled their country and took refuge at a remote desert camp in Saudi Arabia are seeking a new life in the United States, Europe and Iran.

Abdul Mawla Al Solh, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Saudi Arabia, said Monday 9,710 Iraqis had been resettled in other countries during their request since July last year.

He said about 30,000 refugees were still at the Rafha camp in northern Saudi Arabia, close to the Iraqi border.

"Many countries are still willing to accept more refugees from Rafha," Mr. Solh told Reuters.

More than 28,000 Iraqis initially took refuge at the camp after the 1991 Gulf war over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Some were former prisoners-of-war who refused to go home, others had fled fighting in southern Iraq between Iraqi troops and rebels.

The numbers increased until the end of 1992. But this year Saudi Arabia — which said it spent \$400 million on the upkeep of the camp up to February 1992 — stopped accepting new arrivals.

Mr. Solh said 7,704 Iraqi re-

fugees had been resettled in other countries, mostly the United States, Sweden, Finland, Norway, England, Germany, Spain, Australia, Denmark and Canada.

He said 2,006 have been voluntarily repatriated to Iraq — 192 went back last week.

Mr. Solh said the last flight took 492 refugees to the United States on Aug. 19.

He said 1,256 refugees had gone to Iran since July 1992 and several hundred were expected to go there in the next few weeks after they requested to join relatives who had already taken refuge from southern Iraq.

Iraqi said earlier this month that 4,500 Iraqis, most of them disabled, had fled the southern marshes and taken refuge in Iran in the past two months and that 15,000 more could follow.

Saudi Arabia said in May that 13 people were killed, including four Saudi nationals who were burnt to death, when riots swept the Rafha camp in March. Some refugees demonstrated to demand that Saudi authorities admit more Iraqis.

The Saudi then allowed in a few women and children but diplomats said there had since been no arrivals in the camp.

# Afghan general conducts clean-up of militias

By Terence White  
Agence France Presse

tan bordering the former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan.

Mr. Yousef said the operation of 600 men under Gen. Ismael Khan's personal command was still underway, with just one district remaining.

Gen. Ismael Khan, one of the most famous rebel commanders in Afghanistan, who became governor of Herat province after the early 1992 defeat of the Moscow-backed Afghan communist regime, has already extended his influence into other neighbouring provinces of Ghor, Farah, Nimroz and Helmand.

Herat province was the most recent to have been brought under Gen. Ismael Khan's administration, said Gen. Alauhuddin Khan, commander of Herat's 17th infantry division, who was in charge of this operation.

Although a general amnesty was offered to defeated former

## PLO facing confidence crisis — Sai'd

LONDON (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is facing a confidence crisis following the resignation of Executive Committee members protesting the handling of Middle East peace talks, prominent Palestinian scholar Edward Said said Monday.

Pakistan has come under pressure from the United States and several Arab states, particularly Egypt, Algeria and Saudi Arabia, who say Muslim militants were using its Peshawar province as a safe haven to plan operations elsewhere.

Earlier this year, Pakistani authorities told Arabs in the country without valid papers to leave or face arrest.

Thousands of Arabs went to Pakistan to help Mujahideen guerrillas in neighbouring Afghanistan during the 14-year war against the Soviet-backed government.

Many of them stayed on after Moscow pulled out its troops.

Both of them represent the last... independent figures inside the executive committee of the PLO," Dr. Said told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

Mr. Hout cited "irresponsible and adventurous" policies towards the peace talks by the PLO's top leadership and accused PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of mismanaging the movement's financial affairs.

He also called for a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to adopt a clear policy regarding the Arab-Israeli peace talks, due to resume in Washington on Aug. 31.

Mr. Darwisch told Mr. Arafat in his resignation letter that he would rather quit than watch the group make concessions in the talks, PLO sources said.

Dr. Said's report said the crisis was sparked partly by Mr. Arafat's leadership style, and also by "sacrifices" the PLO has made in the negotiations.

He said Mr. Arafat "has sort of gone off on his own a bit. He is also surrounded by sycophants and not only that, but he's also very much a loner... has refused to delegate authority," he said.

"At the same time that his people in Washington have been negotiating in one direction, he's been negotiating another, changing his mind," he said.

"I think there's an overall feeling that amongst Palestinians, myself included, that we gave up too many things just to stay in the negotiations according to the American and Israeli plan."



HOSTAGES: Alfredo Cesar, former president of Nicaragua's National Parliament and Humberto Castilla both members of the National Opposition Union (UNO) stand in their underwear in front of the windows as protection for the group known as Group 40 for National Sovereignty. The group is holding some 35 hostages including Vice President Virgilio Godoy (see page 8)

## COLUMN 8

### Clinton plays in charity golf tournament

MARSHALL VINEYARD, Massachusetts (R) — President Bill Clinton helped Martha's Vineyard hospital raise \$34,000 in charitable contributions by playing golf. "Oh no," he cried when his first shot went awry. During a drive shot later in the game, he shouted "whoa, mama." Mr. Clinton participated in the hospital's eighth annual golf tournament with Washington power broker Vernon Jordan, who headed Mr. Clinton's post-election transition to the White House, as well as Assistant Attorney General Webster Hubbell and Sheldon Hackney, newly confirmed head of the National Endowment for Humanities; Matthew Stackpole, president of the hospital foundation, said Mr. Jordan paid the \$250 entry fee for Mr. Clinton and the rest of the foursome. He said contributions this year totalled \$54,000, the best year on record. Mr. Clinton is on a 10-day vacation to this resort island 11 kilometres off the coast of the U.S. mainland.

### Surviving siamese twin remains stable

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Seven-week-old Angela Lakeberg remained in critical but stable condition, 45 hours after the operation that separated her from her late siamese twin sister Amy. Officials at children's hospital of Philadelphia reported no change in the infant's condition, increasing hope that the delicate, five-and-a-half-hour operation performed Friday would prove successful. Amy and Angela were born joined at the chest, sharing a liver and a malformed heart, on June 29 at a hospital in Maywood, Illinois. Angela has already outlived two of the three other chosen survivors in similar procedures performed previously at children's hospital, who lived six and 12 hours, respectively. The third lived three-and-a-half months. Doctors said Saturday that Angela "is increasingly active with good blood pressure and good circulation." Her parents, Kenneth and Reitha Lakeberg, remained optimistic. "The main thing here is that we tried," said Kenneth Lakeberg. "It was a planned pregnancy and we gave it everything we got." A funeral for Amy Lakeberg will be held Tuesday in the Lakeberg's home town of Wheatfield, Indiana.

### Mexican defends 'miracle' water

TLACOTE (R) — Well-water from this dusty town, said to have miraculously cured thousands suffering from everything from AIDS to cancer, has set off a row with Argentine officials who fear it may cause cholera. Jesus Chahin Simon, who owns the well, claims the water is getting an undeserved bad rap from Argentina, which has banned the water. "This water doesn't give anyone problems. It is the first water to cure cholera," Mr. Chahin told Reuters. Argentine health officials slapped a ban on imports of the water this week saying it had not been analysed and could carry bacteria. The move outraged hundreds of ill people and their family members who had made the long journey from Argentina to this town 300 kilometres north of Mexico City — and were unable to leave the Buenos Aires Airport with their jugs of water. Some Argentine travel agencies had put together package tours to this small dusty town for 1,200 each, promising travellers can bring back 80 litres (17 gallons) of water. Argentine officials Friday granted a temporary reprieve lifting the ban for 72 hours.

### Reward for missing AIDS monkey

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The Medical University of South Africa has offered a 1,000-and (\$25) reward for an escaped monkey used in research into acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), the Sunday Times newspaper reported. University staff, backed by a helicopter, have been searching the bush around Pretoria since Wednesday for the monkey, which has a rare naturally occurring form of simian immune deficiency syndrome (SIV). The university said the risk of humans becoming infected with AIDS from a bite from the monkey was minimal, but still warned the public to avoid trying to catch it. The Sunday Times said it had been conducting laboratory tests on the animal to try to find out why it is naturally immune to HIV-like viruses, the paper said. University staff could not be reached for comment Saturday.

CAIRO (R) — Coptic Christians have been targeted by a gang of gunmen in a series of attacks on Coptic Christians in Cairo. Police arrested a gang of 10 men, including a former police officer, in connection with the attacks. The gang is believed to be linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been blamed for several attacks on Coptic Christians in recent weeks. The latest attack occurred on Saturday morning, when a group of gunmen opened fire on a Coptic church in the city of Helwan, killing several people. The police are investigating the incident and have arrested several suspects. The attack has caused outrage among Coptic Christians, who have been targeted by the group for several years. The group has been blamed for several attacks on Coptic Christians in recent weeks. The latest attack occurred on Saturday morning, when a group of gunmen opened fire on a Coptic church in the city of Helwan, killing several people. The police are investigating the incident and have arrested several suspects. The attack has caused outrage among Coptic Christians, who have been targeted by the group for several years.

Jadid in an Amman suburb on Monday to offer their condolences but the circumstances of his death remained unclear.

"There are many unanswered questions as to the way he died. The actual date of his death, in what condition he was taken from jail to hospital, when he was removed and what kind of medical treatment he received at the hospital," said a Jadid supporter who asked not to be identified.

General Jadid had been in jail since 1970, when he led the opposition to a coup by current Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"In the name of all his comrades we demand a full inquiry into the death of General Jadid to settle the circumstances of his death," said Hafez Al Assad.

Relatives and supporters said he had found out about his death on Thursday only when they went to seek routine permission to visit Gen. Jadid in jail.

"They (police) kept them waiting for two hours before telling them they should go to Tishreen hospital because Gen. Jadid is there for treatment," said one man in touch with the family.

"They emptied the whole hospital floor before his family arrived. There was not even a doctor or nurse to tell them anything. His body was swollen, a sign that he died several days back. There was dried blood around his ears, mouth and nose."

Two others are on the run and will be tried in absentia.

"The plot was discovered while it was being planned, and those directly implicated were arrested," the King said.

"It had never occurred to me that certain youths will go astray

in this way. When the group was discovered its members were put under surveillance, but when the circle widened certain measures against them had to be taken immediately. Through investigations, those responsible — the Islamic Liberation Party — was pinpointed and the group will now be referred to court."

In reply to a question about Jordan's request to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his last visit to Jordan to end the siege imposed on Aqaba as part of the sanctions imposed on Iraq, the King said: "We are awaiting a reply to this request. Indeed, this is a very serious matter and there is no justification for the sanctions on Aqaba, which are damaging the Jordanian economy."

King Hussein said he was "very shocked" when he heard of the plot but "not surprised because there have been frequent attacks" on him during his 41-year reign.

"Attempts on my life over the past years never stopped despite the fact that I feel the happiest person in view of the respect and affection from the Jordanian people," the King said.

"Everyone will be able to follow the details of the plot and its implications," he said.

The other four accused in the plot are leaders of the outlawed Islamic Liberation Party (ILP).

Officials said on Aug. 14 that eight ILP members and army cadets had been arrested in connection with a plot to assassinate the King while he presided over the academy's graduation ceremony.

"We had wanted Muta to be a unique university by all means, and with God's help, it will be so," the King said.

Noting that Muta is in need of reorganisation in certain areas, he said: